CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1371
24 November 1995

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international agencies in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit a copy of the 9 November 1995 Santiago Declaration on Confidence-building and Security-building Measures.

The Permanent Mission of Chile would be grateful if this document could be distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.95-64236 (E)

SANTIAGO DECLARATION ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING
AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

The changes which have occurred on the international scene, the coming to power of democratic Governments in the hemisphere and the end of the cold war have created a favourable climate for the strengthening of peace and security in the hemisphere. All this supplies a framework in which the member States of OAS can pursue the necessary process of reflection in order to eliminate the factors which give rise to mistrust between States in the hemisphere and to identify new modes of cooperation, for the purpose of strengthening peace, ensuring the proper realization of the purposes and principles of the OAS Charter, guaranteeing the implementation of international law and promoting relations of friendship and cooperation, which taken together will help to enhance security in the region.

The adoption of confidence-building and security-building measures constitutes a major contribution to transparency, mutual understanding and regional security, and to the achievement of development objectives, including that of conquering poverty and protecting the environment. Economic, social and cultural development is indissolubly linked with international peace and security.

Confidence-building and security-building measures must be appropriate to the geographical, political, social, cultural and economic conditions prevailing in each region and have their own sphere of application, as the extensive experience built up in the hemisphere demonstrates.

Respect for international law, the faithful application of treaties, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the sovereignty of States and for non-intervention and the prohibition of the use or the threat of the use of force in accordance with the OAS Charter and the Charter of the United Nations stand at the foundation of peaceful coexistence and security in the hemisphere and constitute the framework for the development of confidence-building measures.

The Governments express their satisfaction at the progress in economic integration achieved in the hemisphere, which in their view promotes trust and security in the region.

It is a fundamental condition for an effective international security system that all States should comply with the same universal, binding rules.

The agreements which emerged from the regional and subregional meetings of heads of State and Government and the Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994 contain important guidelines for the strengthening of security in the region.

The negotiations being carried out at the subregional level on security and the promotion of confidence-building and security-building measures, such as those being conducted by the countries of Central America, inter alia through the Central American Security Commission, help to strengthen the climate of security in the hemisphere.

Other intergovernmental meetings, such as the meeting of Defence Ministers of the Americas held in Williamsburg at the invitation of the United States, contribute to the dialogue and the exchange of views on this subject.

A fundamental part of the hemisphere's contribution to the cause of peace and security is the Treaty of Tlatelolco, whose provisions on the banning of nuclear weapons have made Latin America and the Caribbean the world's first inhabited nuclear-weapon-free zone. The ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in 1972, and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed in 1992, the conclusion of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in 1996 and the progress in negotiations relating to weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms limitation and prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects will contribute to a safer international environment.

The application of confidence-building and security-building measures contributes to the creation of a favourable climate for the genuine limitation of conventional armaments, which will make it possible to increase the resources devoted to economic and social development in the member States - one of the key purposes set out in the OAS Charter.

The strengthening of bilateral and multilateral dialogue promotes mutual understanding and encourages greater cooperation in tackling the challenges of the next century. Measures aimed at fostering confidence and security in the Americas are especially significant for the shaping of relations of friendship and cooperation.

Noteworthy among confidence-building and security-building measures are the Buenos Aires meeting of experts in March 1994 and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of OAS, particularly resolutions AG/RES.119 (XXIII-O/93), AG/RES.1284 (XXIV-O/94) and AG/RES.1288 (XXIV-O/94), as well as the draft inventory submitted by the Inter-American Defense Board to the Permanent Council in pursuance of resolution CP/RES.650 (1031/95).

In the light of the above, the Governments of the member States of OAS, meeting in Santiago, Chile, agree to recommend the application, as appropriate, of confidence-building and security-building measures, including:

(a) The gradual adoption of agreements for the prior notification of military exercises;

(b) The exchange of information and participation by all member States in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and in the system for the standardized reporting of military expenditure;

(c) Encouragement of the preparation and exchange of information on defence policies and doctrines;

(d) Consideration of a process of consultations with the aim of making progress in conventional arms limitation and control;

(e) Agreements on the invitation of observers to military exercises, visits to military installations, opportunities for observing routine operations and the exchange of civilian and military personnel for training and further training;

(f) Meetings and activities to prevent incidents and enhance security in land, sea and air traffic;

(g) Programmes for cooperation to deal with or prevent natural disasters, on the basis of requests and authorizations involving the affected States;

(h) Development and introduction of communications between the civilian or military authorities of neighbouring countries, in keeping with the situation on their border;

(i) Seminars, awareness courses and studies on measures of mutual trust and confidence-building policies, involving civilian and military personnel, and on the special security concerns of small island States;

(j) Holding of a high-level meeting on the special security concerns of small island States;

(k) Peace education programmes.

The measures that have been announced require the initiation of a series of actions to ensure that their implementation is monitored and periodically evaluated. To that end, the representatives of the Governments of the member States of OAS call on the Committee on Hemispheric Security to take up these functions and prepare a report on the matter for consideration at the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, which will decide, inter alia, on the holding of a regional conference as a follow-up to the Regional Conference on Confidence-building and Security-building Measures held in Santiago, Chile.

In view of the importance of learning about other measures that are being applied or could be adopted, the representatives agree to provide the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security periodically with information on the application of confidence-building measures in order to facilitate the preparation of the comprehensive and systematic inventory of such measures which was called for by the OAS General Assembly.

The representatives support the continuation of the international negotiations on the banning of, traffic in and indiscriminate use of anti-personnel land-mines, bearing in mind the harmful effects of such land-mines on the civilian population and for economic and social development. In that context they acknowledge the mine removal efforts being carried out in Central America by the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defense Board.

The Governments of the hemisphere attach special priority to identification of the risks, threats and challenges facing the Americas in the coming century, as well as the fostering of an international climate of trust and peace through cooperation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the OAS Charter.

In that context, they commit their efforts to ensuring that current disputes are settled as quickly as possible by means of negotiated agreements which are inspired by justice and display full respect for international law and the treaties in force.

The representatives agree that the Americas are in a position to help strengthen international peace and security significantly through the exchange of experience with other regions regarding confidence-building and security-building measures.

The representatives place on record their gratitude to the Government of Chile for the warm welcome they received and the sound organization of the meeting. They also extend their appreciation to the General Secretariat of OAS.

Santiago, 9 November 1995